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The CIA wants you, if you're an imagery scientist or engineer

By John Gallagher

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The Central Intelligence Agency is looking here for a few good men and women.

And contrary to the clandestine way that characters in spy novels recruit help, the CIA is open about it.

The agency took out an advertisement in yesterday's *Sunday Democrat and Chronicle*, seeking "imagery scientists and engineers" to work at the National Photographic Interpretation Center in Washington, D.C.

The spy agency wants people adept at photogrammetry, digital image processing, image science, and engineering and equipment services.

Basically, that means interpreting photos shot by spy satellites, and keeping the necessary equipment running.

"The job is not adventurous," said Russell Kraus, director of Rochester Institute of Technology's School of Photographic Arts and Sciences.

"You're sitting behind a desk or piece of equipment all day looking at snapshots. It's anything but glamorous."

RIT, with its state-of-the-art photography programs, is one of the places where applicants may come from. The University of Rochester and, perhaps, the Eastman Kodak Co. could be others.

Kraus thinks the CIA will run into stiff competition from industry in recruiting talent.

Businesses are now paying RIT graduates starting salaries of \$25,000 to \$28,000.

"That's for a youngster with a bachelor's degree and 21, 22 years of age," he added.

The CIA's advertisement said pay would

range from \$15,922 to \$33,586, depending on experience and qualifications.

The ad said applicants must be citizens of the United States, have at least a bachelor's degree, and pass a background investigation.

For more information, a call was placed to CIA headquarters in Langley, Va., in suburban Washington.

A crisp voice that identified itself as Jim Pritchard, security duty officer, said the agency places ads in publications such as the *New York Times*, *Washington Post* and *Philadelphia Inquirer*.

Pritchard agreed the ad may have run in the *Democrat and Chronicle* because of this area's wealth of photographic talent and training centers.

Quirks of CIA-style security popped up during the brief conversation with Pritchard. Although willing to say the CIA hires 1,500 to 3,000 people a year out of more than 150,000 applicants, he refused to say how many people work for the CIA.

"I can't. That's classified," he said.

Photogrammetry, Kraus explained, is the science of measuring distances between objects in photographs.

"You might want to know the distance between point A and point B. He may see an object and want to know how long it is. Is it a barracks, an outhouse, or what?"

Kraus speculated that much of the work will probably involve interpreting photos of an economic or agricultural nature.

"The military takes more agriculture photos than any other agency. Wouldn't you like to know if your enemy forces are going to have enough food to eat next year?"